the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

October, November, 2001
Number 372

N4TAB Analyzes "Antennas" at the September RARS Meeting

November 6th Meeting is the Annual RARS Auction. Bring your goodies... UPSTAIRS on the 3rd floor at FHBC

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President	**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX** **501-7746** **kf4rtx@arrl.net**
Vice-President	**Bob Breyer K1RCB** **848-7761** **breyer@ix.netcom.com**
Secretary	**Jeff Wittich AC4ZO** **362-4787** **ac4zo@arrl.net**
Treasurer	**Greg Seamster KE4PAX** **859-0029** **ke4pax@arrl.net**
Exciter Editor	**Gary Pearce KN4AQ** **380-9944** **kn4aq@arrl.net**
Exciter Associate Editor	**Karl Ulrich K4LNX** **k4lnx@arrl.net**

Info

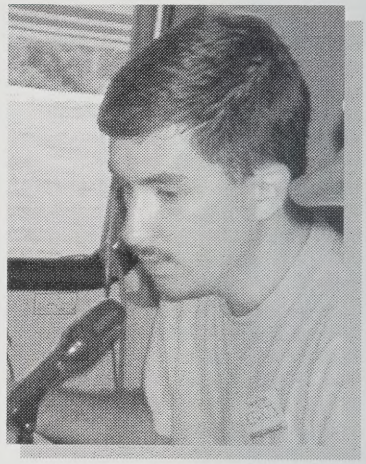
Repeaters:

145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

Web Site:
http://www.rars.org

President's Corner

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX



The thoughts and prayers of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society go out to the victims and their families of the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Pennsylvania recently.

September 11, 2001. A day forever burned into the memories of millions of Americans, and millions more worldwide. It is a date that will be uttered with the same solemnity as December 7, 1941; February 26, 1993; and April 19, 1995. It was a horrendous disaster, but I was so proud to hear about the hams that were volunteering to aid in communications efforts. Amid all the destruction and pain, amateur radio stood proud among the groups of volunteers and played a vital role in the rescue and clean-up efforts, and continues to do so today. If this does not show our leaders in Washington how crucial it is to have ham radio available, I don't know what will. Maybe now they will listen to our pleas for protecting our spectrum and give us protection from tight covenants and restrictions. And it's our duty to make sure they don't forget! So be sure to write your Congressman letting him or her know how important you feel amateur radio is to America.

It is hard to believe that it's time to get ready for RARSFest 2001. Hank K4HM had the kickoff meeting in September, and from reading the minutes, I can tell that there was a lot of good discussion and ideas passed about. It's not too soon to start thinking about the area in which you would like to work at the 'fest. If you are interested in helping sell tickets please let me know, as I will be heading up admissions. But please take the time to work at least one shift during that weekend, regardless of whether it is admissions, security, stage, or whatever. Remember: volunteer early; volunteer often! Let's make this the best hamfest RARS has ever had!

We also have the State Fair this month, along with several other public service events. If you would like to volunteer for an event, please see the event coordinator, or check out the calendar on the RARS website:
www.rars.org/calendar.htm.

One last thing. There are several open positions on the board of directors this time around, so if a member of the nominations committee approaches you, please give it serious thought. It is just another way of giving back to a great radio club.

73!
Tim, KF4RTX
President

Tune In The
RARS NEWS HOUR

-Newsline
-ARRL Audio News

Sunday Nights following the RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64

PSK31 Experiment Report

John Guerriero KG4HDT

Dedicated to the memory of the people in the WTC Sep 11 2001

What follows is a report about a net that started on HF SSB and moved to HF PSK31. The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society 10 meter net meets every Wednesday at 8:30 (or after the 2 meter net) on 28.364. I have called this net for almost a year now and we have been on every band form 10 to 160. We discussed the switch to PSK31 for several months and took a stand on Sep 12 2001. This experiement was also discussed at the ARES Digital Meeting on Aug 23 2001.

The net started at 20:30 with nine phone checkins including WA7PWO, Ralph, form Tucson, Az. All stations were advised that the next segment of this net was to move to PSK31 at 28.120.150. I closed the phone segment of the RARS 10M net on 28.364. Once tuned up on 28.120.15, and finding no other stations I called each station on the log. Paul, KG4HJC was the first station to come back. We then picked up Ronnie, KG4FJA, who had not checked in on phone. David KF4VXJ, and Murry AG4BJ also checked in.

Below is a cut & paste of the report given by Murry, AG4BJ, this is cut from the Digipan screen:

```
<<<<<
I'M STILL HERE
Radio = ICOM-746
Antenna = homemade dual band inverted "V" in attic
Computer = very old 586 at 120 MHz
OS = RedHat Linux 7.1
Application = LinPsk Version 0.5.1

Radio = ICOM-746
Antenna = homemade dual band inverted "V" in attic
Computer = very old 586 at 120 MHz
OS = RedHat Linux 7.1
Application = LinPsk Version
0.5.1

BTU FROM AG4BJKKK
<<<<<
```

Murry, as always, thanks for the fine job.

The Wake County ARES Net meets Thursday at 9:00 PM on the 146.88 Repeater

Join Us At The RARS Dinner

Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.

November RARS Meeting is the Annual Auction

UPSTAIRS on the 3rd Floor!

MS-150 Stories!

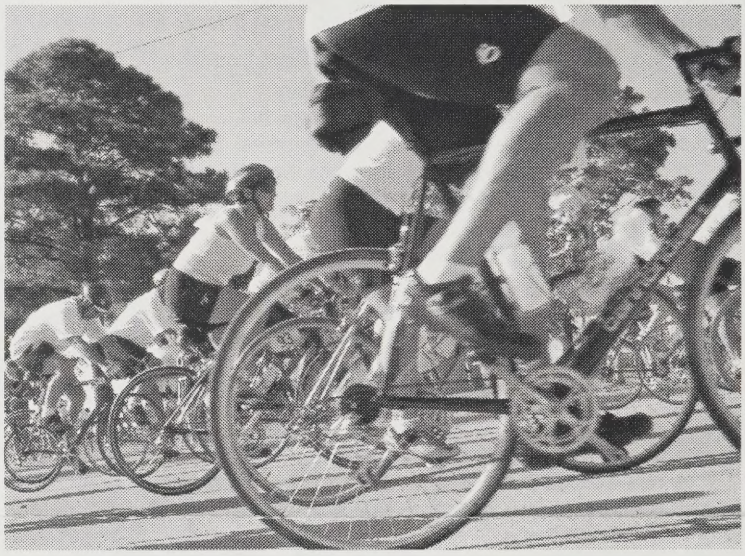
[Editors Note: For this year, Gary KN4AQ came of with a new idea of how to get the MS-150 story. Instead of us writing the story (well, okay, Gary writing the story), we though we'd ask you to tell your story of your experience on the MS-150. Thanks to everyone who responded!]

Mark WD4KSE

The MS-150 was quite a bit different this year than other years. I have been the event coordinators shadow before, but there was a new event coordinator this year, Amanda. Instead of following the course, Amanda and I stayed around the convention center and the park across the street. The first day was pretty uneventful for Amanda and I. The biggest trouble was getting enough ice to where it needed to be. The massage therapists never showed up either.

The second day was quite a bit different. After the EARLY morning meeting I began to look for Amanda. When I found her coming into the building I thought to myself "The event coordinator usually looks slightly tired on the second day but Amanda looked much worse than normal!" Come to find out she and her husband of 3 months had been dancing at the party on Sat. night. Her husband dipped her not realizing that a chair was in the way. She ended up with a concussion and spending about 5 hours in the hospital. The hospital wanted to keep her overnight but she did not want to miss the second day of the tour. All day she did not feel well at all.

The MS Staff can be pretty slippery sometimes. I lost Amanda when she got into a van with someone (without my knowledge) and went out on the course for about an hour. She had indicated that she would be around the tent in the park. I was talking to some ladies and giving them directions for a while when she slipped away. I guess the concussion was clouding her judgment that day.



The cross band repeater Bruce and I set up worked very well for communications around and inside the convention center. Communications without it would have been VERY difficult. My mobile radio that was used for the downlink of the cross band repeater basically transmitted for about 10 hours straight. Even though it was on low power, that radio was very HOT at the end of the day!

All in all I had fun. It is a little questionable whether a shadow is really needed if Amanda stays at the convention center. A shadow being with Amanda did come in handy several times, however. Using the VHF radios they used locally may work but it will slow communications with them quite a bit. Net control (or someone at net control) would have to contact her when a question came in for her. The one thing I really missed was getting out on the course. I just really like seeing things out on the course. Amanda, even commented that see would like to get out on the course more also. Perhaps things can be modified slightly next year.

Liz KF4UQZ

It was a beautiful day for the MS 150. I began the day at rest stop two. There was a big crowd of volunteers to setup and after a while we were surrounded by bikers. The rest stop was rather uneventful except that the person in charge of the rest stop had MS and they had to pick him up a couple of times. I did not want to go home right away when rest stop two closed and one of the medical personnel needed a ride to rest stop five. So we worked our way up to rest stop three where the food cooking was on hold due to the cooking gas situation so we moved on.

Between 3 and 4 there were two bikers standing at the side of the road and three bikes were on the grass. Someone had stopped in a pickup truck and a biker was sitting propped up against his front tire away from the road. We pulled over and the medic went to access the damage. Biker number 256 had a broken collar bone. We reported the problem and Denyse (KG4CXR) and the doctor arrived on the scene and she also checked on the patient. About that time the ambulance arrived and took him to Craven Hospital. The three bikers had apparently just run into each other. Having the medic with me helped because we knew right away what we were dealing with. There was also a lady PA on the scene who offered her assistance if we needed her even before the doctor could reach us.

Afterwards I took the medic on to rest stop 5 and the bicycle to the convention center. I wish we could sign the cast for number 256. We were glad that we could help.

Bob K1RCB, standing on the chair, addresses the troops. In the red hat on the right, we see our first contributor.

Larry KG4FIQ

The thing that always makes me feel good during one of these events is the way riders will come up at rest stops and thank us for being there. No matter how tired I may be it always gives me a lift. I think these folks feel more secure when they see our SAG wagons patrolling the course and the hams at the rest stops. IMHO, everyone needs to work one of these big events at least once.

Max KO4TV

All in all, it was a fun operation, if somewhat tiring. Most things went smoothly, but I do have a couple of comments that should be forwarded on to the MS-150 planners. A major complaint was riders spreading out and occupying the entire roadway, especially on the 2 lane roads that made up most of the route. On numerous occasions, while operating a SAG vehicle, I sounded my horn and motioned them to ride single file, rather than block the entire road. The usual response was to line up single file just long enough for me to pass, then spread out all over the road again. This is extremely dangerous, especially in curves and limited vision situations, and could result in serious injuries or fatalities.

Here's Max KO4TV, putting the PTT to good use

Another complaint was at the rest stops, some riders would indiscriminately prop their cycles against volunteer's vehicles, causing scratches and dents. This certainly did not endear them to the volunteers! Most riders were very considerate, but there were a few bad apples that need a good talking to, and if necessary, banned from future events until they learn some basic manners and courtesy. Otherwise, the event was very enjoyable, the meals excellent, and the volunteers very cooperative and helpful.

Denyse KG4CXR

I went last year for only one day to the MS150. It was such an uplift that my husband and I both decided to try both days this year. We got a motel room and decided to just make a great weekend of fun.

We got tangled up in the new bridge complex trying to get to our motel and with the help of some local hams we were guided where we needed to be. First experience on sleeping on a brick mattress, which was for 2 nights. Next time I'm taking a foam pad.

I was assigned to the "DR" the first day. It's the only time I can be called Dr and not be one. It was an experience I'll never forget and hopefully can do again some year. The second day I traded with Jim KG4FIJ so he could have the experience of some fun. I started out with the Dr but ended up 15 min as rest stop one, then journeyed back to the convention center just in time for storms and being with one of the coordinators to move what was to be in the park under a large tent to the convention center where we'd be dry and out of lightnings way. What a wet time that was. Keeping the radio dry was a challenge.

The whole weekend was quite an experience and I'm anxious to go back next year for another fun time with ham radio.

Jim KG4FIJ with the Doctor and an injured rider

The MS-150 appeared to be well organized and the truly professional attitude of the Hams only made it that much better. The challenges of the unfamiliar roads, crowds of bicyclists, rusty operating procedures (mine!) and the few incidents of the day made for an exciting, fast-paced and yes, extremely tiring day.

Next time, I'll maybe even have APRS running. I know, promises, promises...

Thanks for allowing us to be a part of the activity! Hats off to the organizers and to the other Hams that made it a success!

Howard AA4HR

Hey Bob, Yes I had fun! Also felt real good about being able to help out in even a small way. I was not able to help on Sunday because of car trouble, but Saturday was great! It was the best planned event I ever participated in, and my hat's off to the organizers! And how about that net control station?!?! Awesome job!!!!

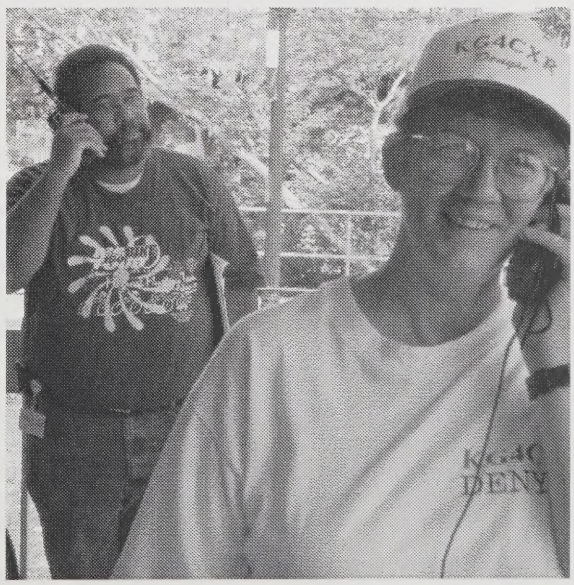
Count me in for next year!

Brian KA9QJT and Elizabeth (supporting spouse)

Since we weren't able to help with the MS-150 on Saturday, Sunday was a day of firsts for us. It was the first time we had visited the New Bern area since relocating to North Carolina from Wisconsin earlier in the year. The New Bern areas is very scenic, indeed.

It was the first time I had ever helped during a bicycle event. My last event involved snow and thin boards strapped to one's feet.

It was also the very first time my wife Elizabeth joined me during a Ham Radio-related activity. No, she doesn't ever plan on becoming a Ham, but she understands better now. <grin>



Denyse KG4CXR with David KD4WQU at the finish line

Paul KG4HJC

I was transporting a medic and a rider toward the finish. A group of bikers waved us down. One was on the ground complaining of a broken arm. The medic got out and started checking the rider out.

(Thank God the medic was with me--otherwise it would have been much more stressful to me. She was super cool and efficient. Assuming I won't have one with me next time, I will prepare for SAG by reviewing basic first aid guidelines and put a first aid kit in my car.)

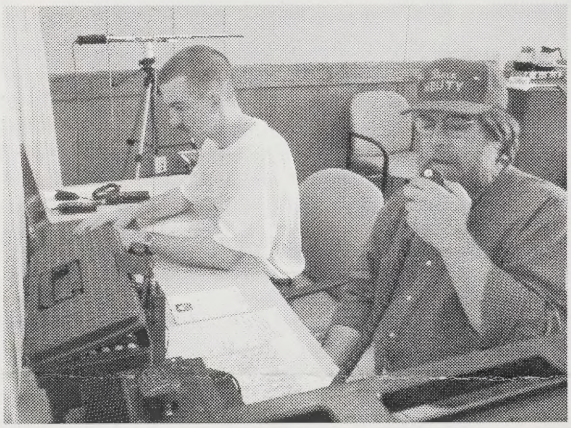
I tried to figure out where we were and made an emergency call for the doctor.

I got confused in the heat of the moment about which map to use. We were right at one of the turns. Net control asked me our location. I really couldn't tell on the maps we were using so I referred to the MS-150 handout turn mileage. Even then there was some confusion about the location. If I had had my tracker on, there would be no ambiguity. I didn't have time to reconfigure it prior to getting out on the course with the local New Bern settings. I had to setup the display, train Marion to operate it, and then jump in the car and get out on the course before the start. It was a bit hectic. Also, I had no idea I was going to be a SAG. I was reassigned after my rest stop closed. The lessons here are the hams and the MS-150 folks should use the same maps or turn identifiers, every SAG needs a tracker, and we need to use the standard APRS settings to eliminate the need for reconfiguration on the fly.)

I jumped out the car with my HT to relay status from the nurse. Net control called, but I could not reply with my HT. We were at a point in the course where repeater coverage was marginal. HTs could only get through using big mag-mount antennas. So I had to keep running back to my car to send messages. It would have been better if I had a crossband repeater setup in my car to enable my HT to get through. I could have set this up but once again did not have time to prepare.

I put the nurse on the air. She relayed status to the doctor. The nurse fashioned a crude splint out of a folder full of paper and tape. We waited a while, and suddenly there was a swarm of folks. An ambulance and another SAG showed up, then the last rider follow car did. The EMTs put on a better splint. We all sat there while we waited for the doctor to arrive. The doctor was delayed because the mileage location was miscommunicated, they got 49--we were at 43.4.

Another reason why the doctor needs a tracker.

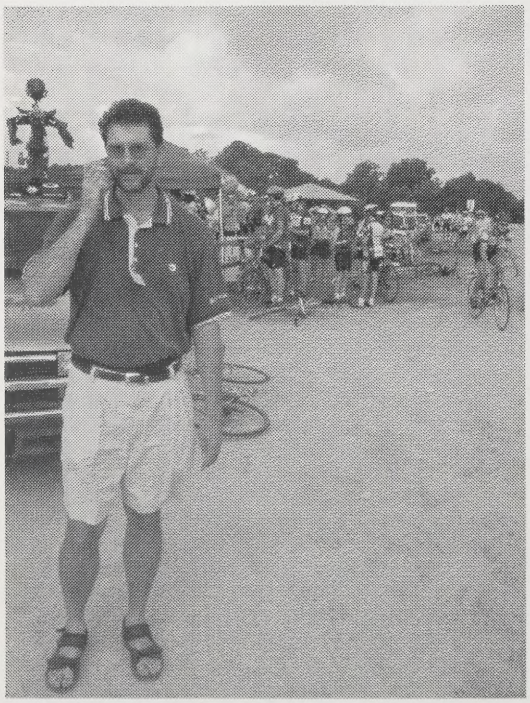


The two NCOs, Eric KF4OTN and Bruce N8UTY

Net control would have been able to know exactly where they were and been able to give out accurate ETAs and directions. Also, the if Doc had a display in the car, they could see where the trouble was on the route and the shortest path there.)

The doctor arrived and determined it was a break and the rider needed to go to the hospital in the ambulance. The rider's companion decided to go along. We transferred the abandoned bikes to the other SAG, and we went on our way back towards the finish looking for other messes to clean up.

In retrospect, the whole thing was handled very professionally. I credit everyone working the race for keeping a cool head. There was even another emergency at the same time. Of course things could have been handled better with additional tools, but we had enough to take care of the situation.



Paul KG4HJC at the rest stop in Oriential

Bruce N8UTY

[The following was e-mailed in as adressed to the Exciter editor]

You've got to put in something about being "Fastfood One."

And you might want to mention the time N8UTY went ballistic in the net control room because there was more noise than he wanted to tolerate.

Hee hee.

Karl K4LNX

Thanks, Bruce. Now you're forcing me to write something to (at least) explain what you're talking about :)

My job in this event was to, as an APRS tracker, follow the lead rider(s).

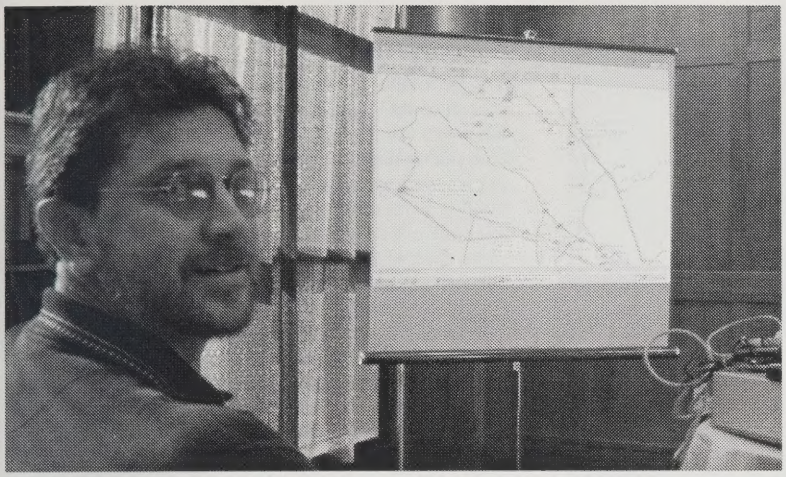
After the first rider crossed the finish line on Sunday, 3 or 4 emergencies suddenly happened. I went up to the net control station to see how they were holding up, and if I could offer any help. The two NCOs, Eric KF4OTN and especially Bruce N8UTY looked malnourshed, so I offered to make a fast food run.

Eric and I soon hopped in his jeep to make the run out to BK and Eric assigned us the tactical call of Fastfood 1, in case Bruce decided to care what we got for him. This tactical callsign never saw any use, though. Maybe next year.

Eric ended up locking his keys, my radio and my phone in his jeep and we had to summon law enforcement to help us out (Eric, as you didn't write anything, I reserve the right to embarass you :).

Saturday afternoon, the net control station kind of became the ham hangout. We couldn't ever shut up, and Bruce N8UTY had to quiet us several times. Who does he think he is? Net control?

Here's the noisy group that caused so much trouble for the NCOs



Paul KG4HJC with the APRS display in the Convention Center

What else can I say, except I think APRS has finally arrived as a usefull tool for our group (after almost a year). I'll echo what some others have said, and say that all mobile stations on these types of events should have an APRS tracker. This is easier said than done, though. There isn't any one cheap, easy, reliable, portable solution out there, yet. There isn't any single set of settings that will work in all situations. While prices are coming down all the time, the most difficult part is the education. I'm sure some of this will be adressed in the coming year.

Also, Bob K1RCB deserves a pat on the back for taking up this event and doing so well with it. Great job, Bob!

Cathy KA3QPU

It feels odd to be writing about our fun weekend amidst all this death, destruction, and devastation. Didn't we all seem so young and innocent just a week ago? But writing is very therapeutic, so here goes.

Last year when Don (WA4AVU) and I worked at the MS-150, I missed a perfect photo opportunity. One of the professors at the university where I work was riding, and I was stationed at the start line, without a camera. This year I was determined to get picture of him for an upcoming issue of the alumni publication I edit.

So there I was wandering around the park, food tent, and convention center in New Bern, looking for one person in a crowd of over 600. Fortunately, I found him by the bagels, and I got my picture.

Mechanics

The one thing I found amazing was how often the mechanics were right where they needed to be at just the right time.

On Saturday, Don's brother and sister-in-law, Sandy (KE4CTJ) and Michelle, pulled over to help a cyclist who had bent his front wheel going over the railroad track just a mile or so from the starting line. Don and I came along a few minutes later and stopped to help, and about that time the mechanic in the red Volvo drove by.

Since traffic was at a complete standstill, Don sprinted over and talked to him, and he u-turned. The mechanic had the right size wheel and within a few minutes, the cyclist was on the road again.

On Sunday morning, we parked on the other side of the 17/55 bridge because I wanted to get a picture of the cyclists riding over the bridge with a police escort. More specifically I wanted to get another picture of "my" professor. Okay, I admit it, I was letting my work duties interfere with my SAG duties, but I once again got my picture. Plus, we were cheering on the cyclists as they rode by.

Driving away from the bridge and around a curve, we saw a cyclist standing by her bike, which had a flat tire. As we stopped to offer SAG assistance, the mechanic in the red Volvo drove up—perfect timing, again!

No more than two miles later, another rider was stopped—a spoke had broken off his wheel. As I was telling him his options (we could SAG him to Rest Area 1, we could call for the closest mechanic location, or he could wait for the red Volvo), the REI mechanic drove up. Once we determined they could fix the wheel, we continued our SAGing duties. Another case of perfect timing!

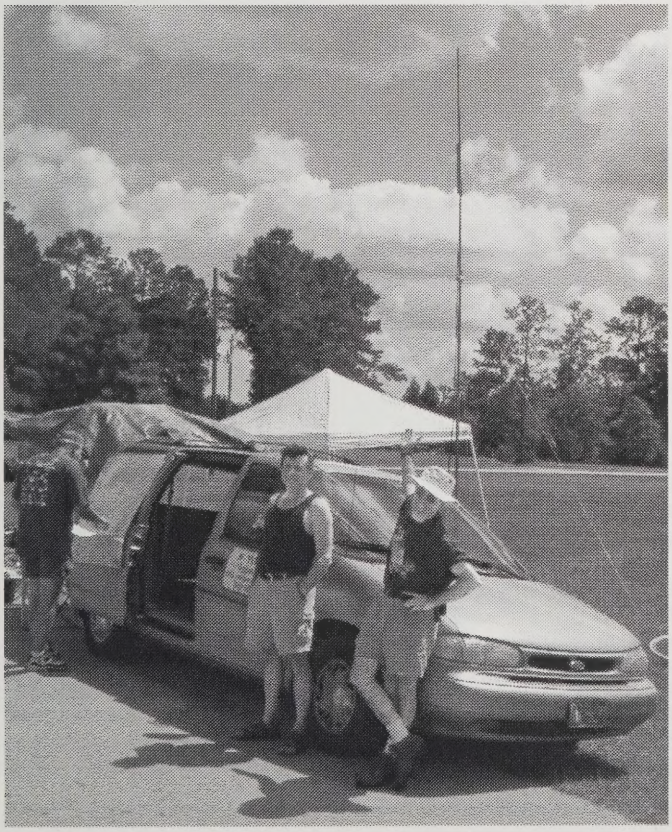
A Different View

I also witnessed a paradigm shift. Don and I were at Rest Area 4 while the reported heart attack was going on. The county paramedic had parked in the middle of the road that ran behind Lupton's, the store on whose property the rest stop was located.

A pick-up truck drove up and blocked in the paramedic's truck, and the driver didn't look happy. In fact, he didn't appear enamored with all the cyclists bopping around in spandex. He asked me whose truck that was, he wanted to get to his driveway. I told him I would see what I could do, knowing full well I wasn't going to tell a paramedic in the midst of helping a heart attack victim that she needed to move her truck because someone else was inconvenienced.

After confirming with Sandy whose truck it was, I told the fellow the situation and thanked him for his patience. As the man grabbed his bag of

On the right, Cathy KA3QPU and Don WA4AVU at a rest stop



Gary KQ2P, Kevin W4KJD and his antenna and guyed mast (!) at a rest stop.

groceries and huffed off toward home, I hoped he would lighten up.

Later, when the road cleared, he came out to move his truck and said his wife was a nurse and could help if necessary. He looked genuinely concerned. I thanked him, relieved about his change of heart. I decided there was no need to explain that it had really been a case of dehydration.

Gone Astray

The other experience that stands out in my mind was when we went off course to find a reportedly lost rider. A cyclist informed us that some men in a tan pick-up truck had told her they saw a rider miss a turn. She didn't know if it was legit, but wanted us to know.

We spotted the truck at a house, and Don talked to the guys. We followed their directions to where the cyclist had missed her turn, back-tracked to the course, went straight on Highway 306 instead of turning, and about two miles down the road, there she was.

The rider had realized her mistake and was backtracking. We found her just in time too, because it began to rain heavily as Don put her bike on the roof rack.

She said she wasn't upset but was very glad we had come along. When we first went off course, we didn't know if we were on a wild goose chase but felt compelled to look anyway.

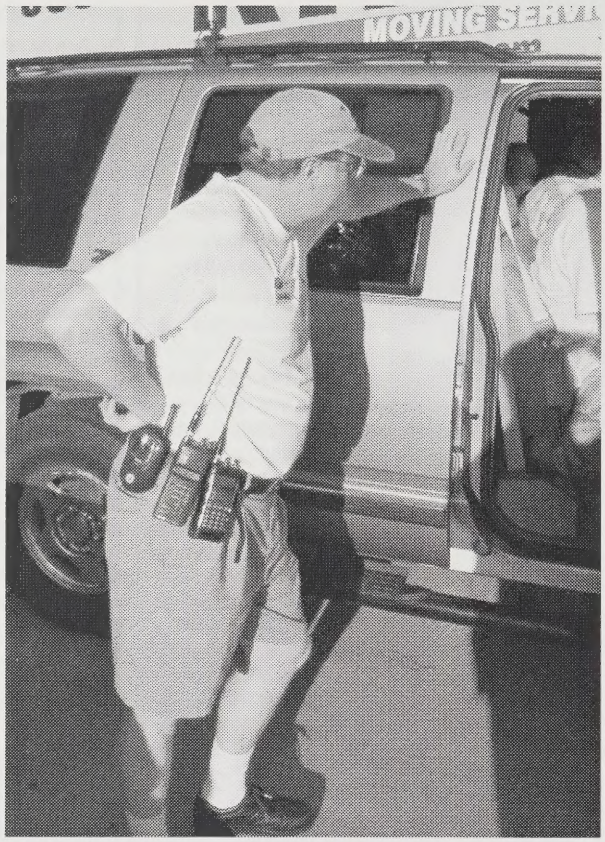
There's no way I could capture everything we saw and did. We just had great fun helping other people and getting to know the other hams a little bit more. Plus we spent some rare time with Sandy and Michelle.

We also tried to learn how to do our job better for next time, with the goal of fewer and shorter transmissions. We've learned from working other events that it also helps to know the other people you're working with—names, calls, and voices—because things run a lot smoother.

Gary KN4AQ

This year I yielded coordination of the event to Bob K1RCB and Vince KF4ZMV, and they got lots of help from Bruce N8UTY down in New Bern. I still managed to get caught up in the APRS operation, with a lot of testing before the event, and a very successful operation on the MS-150 weekend.

My job for the weekend was to shadow Robin Boettcher, the chapter President. Robin was one of the "Shell Answer Men" for the event, so we spent a lot of time on the air as we drove the circuit of the tour. We had the usual run of problems: not enough ice and water here, too much there, and a variety of minor to medium personnel and logistics issues. Robin attempted to use her cell phone for some of the more delicate issues, but she found coverage was spotty even with her "goes-everywhere" service. Ham radio, on the other hand, worked just fine, and once again she said that there's just no way they could do it without us. I gave her an FRS handheld to keep me from having to run quite as fast as she did. She even used it once in a while!



Gary KN4AQ before the race... Is that an FRS radio on your belt? For shame!

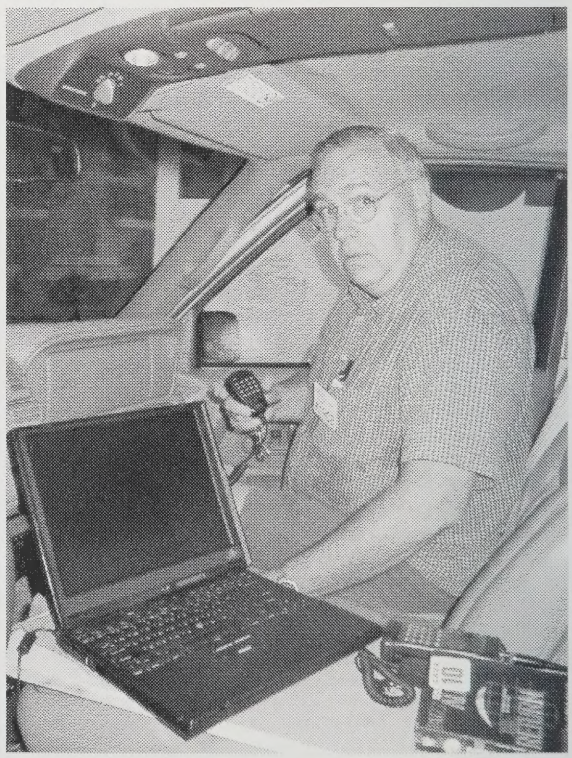
We tried to be on the scene at the more serious accidents, and we headed to the Craven Medical Center several times to meet riders or their friends and family. One rider did end up with a broken collar bone, but a couple of other incidents of suspected heart problems turned out to be less serious.

My laptop computer APRS display gave us a constant update on the position of the first and last riders, and several of the SAG wagons. Robin referred to it often. I'd say that APRS is now halfway between an experiment and a utility. From my point of view as Robin's shadow, we would like to be able to see the location of several other key people - Robin's assistants, the doctor, and supply trucks (one of the supply trucks did have a tracker). And the SAG Coordinator might want to be able to see all the SAGs. That's a LOT more trackers, and it may be time to ask RARS to invest in some of this equipment, as individuals don't have very much use for standalone tracker packages. I have some work to do on the route display that the APRS+SA program shows to make the trackers stand out from the background clutter. There is no APRS node in the New Bern area, but thanks to Mark WA3JPY, who owns a packet LAN/BBS on a 300-foot tower in town, we had a node that gave us pretty good coverage of the course.

It appears that the New Bern location is a hit. I recall some misgivings from a few hams who felt it was too far to go to begin the event. Many of us did head down Friday, and more got up extra early on Saturday. Once there, everyone seemed to like it (though some of us will seek out a better hotel next year). The route itself also received kudos, with the only serious complaint being the rough road before Rest Stop 2 on Saturday. The city and Convention Center people were very accommodating. It looks like the MS-150 has found a home for a long time to come. Robin would like any comments about the facilities and the route at robin.boettcher@nct.nmss.org.

The Amateur Radio operation was first class. Bruce N8UTY and Eric KF4OTN did a great job as net controls, and all the operators at rest stops, in SAG wagons and shadowing organizers were very professional. As usual, the repeater was extremely busy much of the day. At our Saturday night dinner we discussed the "contest mode" competition that develops for use of the repeater, and on Sunday, Bruce, Eric and all the operators adopted a queuing system so that nobody felt pressure to be the first one to call NCS when the channel cleared. Next year we will want to coordinate the shadows a little better with the MS organizers. We ended up wanting to communicate with a couple of people who weren't shadowed, and had to scramble a bit to get them communications. These and other problems were minor, and we'll review them at a debriefing with MS soon.

My thanks to Bob K1RCB for taking on this event. I think Bob has discovered that it's a fair amount of work with a lot of reward.



It's early Sunday morning. Are you feeling that reward yet, Bob?

North Carolina Simulated Emergency Test

www.wakeares.org/set.html

The NC Section and Wake County ARES SET is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd.

No scenario has been chosen, but a basic timeline is in place. The SET activity will be divided in two on Saturday, with statewide activity from about 8:00 AM (beginning with the NC Morning Net on 3927 kHz) until noon, and again from 4:00 PM until the Tarheel net (on 3923 kHz) at 7:30 PM, which will wrap up the SET.

We will announce the specific Wake County operation as soon as possible, but please put the SET on your calendar now. Wake ARES EC's Tom Brown N4TAB and John Gurriero KG4HDT would like to hear your suggestions. They can be contacted at n4tab@arrl.net and kg4hdt@arrl.net.

Be sure to check the above URL for any updates!

New RARS Website-guy* Joe WA2UZO is making changes!

Consolidated RARS Calendar and Web Site Search

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Worldwide Friendship • W4DW/W4RNC • Raleigh, NC • An ARRL Special Service Club

146.64 • 148.13 (88.5) • 224.64 • 444.525 (88.5)

There is now one consolidated RARS calendar that contains all club events, public service events and other types of events of club interest. Please visit the dynamically updated RARS Calendar and be sure to volunteer for an upcoming public service event.

Also, I've implemented a web search form on the site. If you go to the main page and scroll to the "Searches" section you will see a fourth search added. Type text into the RARS.org box and press your Enter key. You will see a listing of all pages on the RARS web site that contain the text you typed. The search is pretty nice, please play with it and let me know what you think. You can also click here to play with the search if you're too lazy to go back to the main page.

Note also that the search has a Site Map feature. Lastly, you can see What's New on the site as well. The site is re-indexed every Monday at about 3am ET so all the weekend updates should be available when you get to work in the morning!

RARS Forum is now the RARS Yahoo! Group

The RARS Forum has been updated and is now the RARS Yahoo! Group.

To join the group and begin posting messages and chatting immediately, visit the RARS Yahoo! Group page.

Using the RARS Yahoo! Group you can not only post and read messages online but you can also choose to receive the via email either individually or as a digest. Searching the archive is also available as are many other message-related tools to make communication between members even easier than ever!

You can also chat live with other RARS members in the Java-enabled RARS Chat area. Chat during nets or whenever you like.

We hope you enjoy the new RARS Yahoo! Group!

**He doesn't like "Webmaster"*

RARS Auction Details

The November meeting is the Annual RARS Auction. Because the church is also used as a polling place on this first Tuesday in November, the meeting will be held in the large room on the 3rd floor. Park in the Clark St. lot if there's room, and use the rear entrance to the church. An elevator is available right outside the meeting room to help you transport items to the 3rd floor.

KF4RDP Cliff Brougton will serve as auctioneer. Any items related to HAM radio or ancillary services (can include computers, testing equipment, specialized tools, manuals, etc.) can be brought to auction.

The buyer pays the seller directly. The club will not be a middleman, nor will it accept EQUIPMENT donations. If you want to donate the proceeds of a sale, enter it in the auction, and then donate the cash to the treasurer. RARS is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are tax deductible. Sellers must be prepared to make change etc. for the purchase.

Sellers may establish a reserve price - i.e. price below which item will not be sold if bidding does not go high enough. Seller must communicate reserve to auctioneer before his item is on the block.

Silent auction will be for various items - all new - in original package. A silent auction has a sign up bid sheet for each item with a beginning bid amount (like a reserve) posted on the sheet with bid increment noted. Then bidders can bid by signing and noting their bid on the sign up sheet. At a specific time the silent auction is closed and the buyers pay.

Silent auction will probably begin at 7 PM and end 7:30 -7:40 PM thereabouts.

Email Bob K1RCB k1rcb@arrl.net with any questions, or ask on the 8:00 net on 146.64.

APRS in Shelby

This is an "APRS View" of the Shelby Hamfest (the Granddaddy of them all), as seen from Raleigh using the APRS+SA program. The wide view shows all the stations running APRS trackers, clustered together at the fairgrounds, along with Stuart NF2N just arriving (moving NW at 22 mpg on Business 74), and K4RAH looking lost as he heads west on the main Hwy 74.

The magnified view separates the stations at the fairgrounds. Those to the left of Business 74 are in the parking lot. N4WOE-7 is heading away from the fest at 14 mph. The stations to the right are scattered around the flea market, including Larry KG4FIQ.

APRS does not show rain, umbrellas, or mud. But it might be a good way to finally find your way back to that bargain you passed up on the first round.

SR 2063
KQ4MS-14
KG4FIQ-9
N4VFK
KF4CDR-14
WA4TIJ-4
N9TQA
N4WOE-7
KE4D
WO4U-13
14
74
Shelby
E WARREN
E AREY
E GRAHAM
E ELM
BEAM
EARL RD
Cleveland Mall
SHANNONHOUSE LIBRARY
SHANNONHOUSE BRIDGES
MITCHELL FORNEY
HOLLY OAK PL
PARKWOOD RD
BRITTAIN
MEADOWBROOK LN
HUNTING RIDGE LN
COUNTRY CLUB LN
COUNTRY GARDEN
ARBOR WAY
LEE LAKES RD
LION
WILLIAMSFIELD
NORTHFIELD
MOUNTAIN LN
PAMELA
Beam's Lake
KENMOOD
ASHLEY
LOUISE
CLOVERLAN
PINE CONE LN
KINGS
CHURCHILL
HILLSIDE
BROOKDALE
MONTROSE
SUMMIT
ADAMS
ELIZABETH RD
TREMONT
S POSTON
Buffalo Creek
MAPLE
CHESTNUT
BEAUMONDE
CIRCLE DR E
CIRCLE DR W
BROOKSIDE
PATTON
JOAN
HARRIS
DALE
GRIGG
GRICE
AUSTELL
SIDNEY
MINT
BLACK
GUM
CYCLONE
N POSTON
CLAXTON
DOVER
EARL
BOOKER
LINCOLN
HUDSON EAST
WEATHERS
ANTRUM
LEE
CLEVELAND WELLS
BUFFALO
KENDALL
ARROWOOD
MARIETTA
E SUMMIT
CAMPBELL
PERRY
TRADE
OLIVE
CHURCH
BLAZER
PREYER
LIGHT DAIRY
SR 2164
SR 2033
SR 2060
SR 2050
SR 2124
SR 2116
SR 2117
SR 2115
SR 2093
SR 2092
SR 2101
SR 2100
SR 2091
SR 2133
SR 1213
SR 1210
SR 1212
SR 1211
SR 1214
SR 1215
SR 1216
SR 1217
SR 1218
SR 1219
SR 1220
SR 1221
SR 1222
SR 1223
SR 1224
SR 1225
SR 1226
SR 1227
SR 1228
SR 1229
SR 1230
SR 1231
SR 1232
SR 1233
SR

Minutes

Club Meeting, September 4th, 2001

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on September 4, 2001 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32p by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX who welcomed 68 members and 1 guest.

Greg, KE4PAX gave the treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 263, and gave the financial status of our accounts.

Alan, AB4OZ brought to the meeting news of an auction to be held at the RARS shed on the 1st Saturday in October.

Denyse, KG4CXR announced that she has many, many membership and asked people to pick them up if they have not already done so.

Jim, KG4FIJ said a few words about the Duke Liver Triathlon that he is coordinating on September 30. He asked for volunteers, and circulated sign-up sheets.

John, KG4HDT updated the membership on the upcoming ARES activities. Included was the orientation for Red Cross communications at the State Fair.

Gary, KN4AQ announced that he has extra copies of the Exciter for people just renewing their membership, and also, he has applications for SERA.

At 7:45p, Tim introduced the program for the evening: VHF antennas, presented by Tom Brown, N4TAB.

Door prizes were awarded to: KD4SLQ, WD4MGP, KG4NUK, and KA9QJT.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32p.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

Secretary

Board Meeting, August 21st, 2001

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on August 21. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX at 7:34p. Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, W4BRB, KG4CXR, K4HF, K4HM, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, K1RCB, KF4RTX, N4YRD, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 14.

On motion by K4HM, seconded by KN4AQ, the minutes of the July meeting were approved.

KE4PAX gave the Treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 240.

In the Vice President's report, K1RCB said that the September meeting will be a presentation by Tom, N4TAB about the basics of vertical antennas.

Committee Reports:

W4BRB reported on the FM committee. He has been cleaning up some paperwork concerning billing for our spot on the Bayleaf tower. Also, he reported that with assistance from Greg, KE4PAX, he has a good inventory under way for the Blue Ridge site. At the Bayleaf site, the required grounding modifications have been completed, and the lightning arrestors are being relocated. The site will soon be in shape and ready to receive equipment. KN4AQ reported that there has been no progress on the new repeaters. The delay is concerning the audio setup.

K4LNX reported on the Exciter. He went with a new printer for the August Exciter and had good results. He says he is getting plenty of content from the membership.

K1RCB said a few words about Public Service, and specifically the MS-150. He said that preparations are going well, and he is looking forward to the event.

WA2UZO gave the Web Manager report. He said that the calander is now automated with recurring events, and that all is going smoothly.

KG4CXR reported on the Membership Services committee. She is asking for direction from the Board as she is nearing completion on this year's membership card project. An item was added to New Business.

K4HM gave the hamfest report. The final budget balancing has been completed, and balanced to the penny. The net increase was reported as $7,166. The next round of meetings (for next year's fest) is about to begin. The fest is scheduled for April 14, 2002. The first meeting will be the 4th Monday in September. (September 24).

Old Business:

An item concerning the Club's dues structure was carried over to this meeting from last month. A motion was made by KN4AQ that we change the Club dues structure to $18 for members receiving the paper Exciter, and $12 for members receiving an emailed Exciter. The motion did not receive a second, so the motion died on the table.

AB4OZ addressed the situation concerning several sets of books that had been ordered for donation to local libraries. Alan has paid for the books himself and will handle the donations himself, but has asked the Secretary to provide the dates that Lynn was the Education Director.

New Business:

As a result of an action item assigned to the Secretary at the Auguse General Membership meeting, AC4ZO presented to the Board a business card that might be adopted as the official RARS business card. A motion was made by K1RCB and seconded by KG4CXR that we accept this card as presented. After discussion, it was decided that an email address needed to be added to the card. The motion was withdrawn, and the item is scheduled for next month, when the new card will be presented.

KE4PAX and W4BRB have begun an inventory process of RARS equipment by reviewing records, and compiling a list of information. Progress is under way.

The topic of an electronic version of the Club roster on the web site was discussed. Past history was reviewed, and the issue of security was considered. In a moment of extraordinary boldness, AC4ZO made a motion that we put an electronic version of the roster in the secure members area of the web page. The motion was seconded by K4HM, and after a small amount of discussion passed unanimously.

An issue concerning our financial process was brought up, and specifically the policy we use for moving cash assets between accounts. KE4PAX spoke to the issue, and made a specific procedural recommendation. The Board approved the recommendation.

AB4OZ has completed the inventory of the old RARS shed. He distributed the list, and is planning an auction at the shed site.

KG4CXR has a number of membership cards that have not been picked up by members, and is asking how to handle them. It was decided that they will not be mailed, and we will make an announcement at an upcoming meeting that they are available, and to pick them up at the sign in table.

KF4RTX appointed the Nominating Committee, with K4HF as chairman. Joining Chuck on the committee is AC4ZO and K4HM.

KN4AQ illuminated the need for an LCD projector for Club use. Some ideas were discussed, and it was decided that we would seek a donation from a local company.

With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 10:04p.

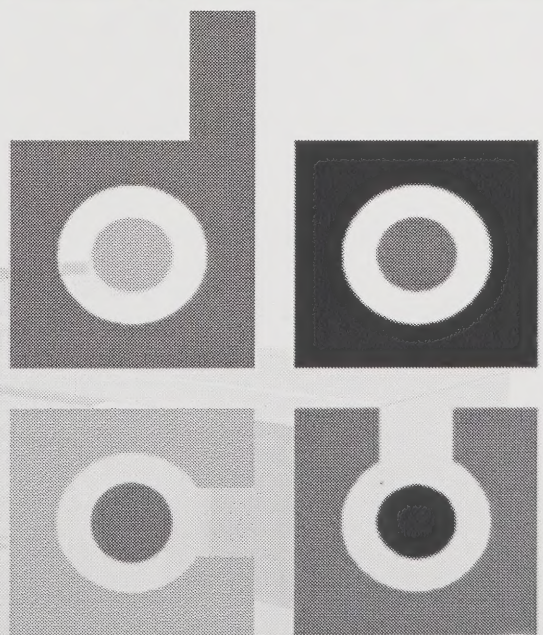
Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO - Secretary

- Digital print-on-demand
- Both small and large format
- Color and black & white
- High-volume print solutions
- One-to-one marketing solutions
- Full service bindery and finishing

www.docusourceofnc.com

951 Aviation Parkway
Suite 600
Morrisville, NC 27560
919-459-5900
Centrally located in the heart of the Triangle!



DOCUSOURCE

relax; docusource it.

the RARS Exciter

October/November, 2001

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

Snapshots

ON THE COVER:

Tom Brown N4TAB demonstrated an antenna analyzer at the September RARS meeting, showing the effects of things like having a good ground plane below the antenna... and what kind of "antennas" (see the cover) can actually work in an emergency.

Hamfest Calendar

November 10:	Myrtle Beach
November 18:	JARSFEST
December 8:	Union, SC
February 1-2:	Charleston, SC
February 10:	Richmond FROSTFEST (new date)

Courtesy of the SERA *Repeater Journal*

Danny Musten KD4RAA and Jim Price WW4M provided the October meeting program - a presentation on the Internet Radio Linking Project. The NC4SU 146.775 repeater is linked to the world via IRLP. For details, see **www.kd4raa.net**. The hard-to-get American flags in the corner were door prizes, courtesy of our VP Bob Breyer K1RCB.